



LIFE09 NAT/SI/000374

Mid-term Report
Covering the project activities from 01/02/2011 to 30/11/2012

Reporting Date
28/11/2012

WETMAN
Conservation and management of freshwater wetlands in
Slovenia





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Data Project

Project location	Slovenia (6 pilot areas)	
Project start date:	01/02/2011	
Project end date:	01/02/2015	Extension date: /
Total budget	€ 2.144.376	
EC contribution:	€1.072.188	
(%) of eligible costs	50	

Data Beneficiary

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2. List of abbreviations

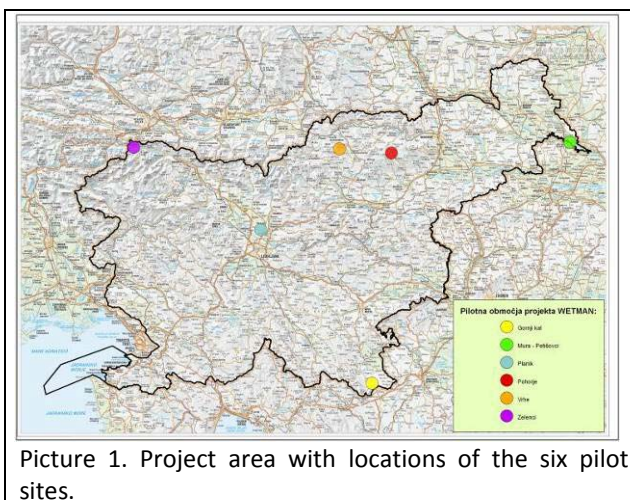
- AB Associated beneficiary
- CB Coordinating beneficiary
- EC European Commission
- EU European Union
- CB ZRSVN Coordinating beneficiary Zavod Republike Slovenije za varstvo narave (Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation)
- AB IzVRS: Associated beneficiary 2 - Inštitut za vode Republike Slovenije (Institute for water of the Republic of Slovenia)
- AB ZZRS: Associated beneficiary 3 - Zavod za ribištvo Slovenije (Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia) -
- AB ZGS: Associated beneficiary 4- Zavod za gozdove Slovenije (Slovenia Forest Service) -
- AB RTV SLO: Associated beneficiary 5 - Radio televizija Slovenije (Slovenian Radio Television) –
- PA Projects Pilot area
- CG - The “Conservation Guidelines for the pilot area management”
- ARSO - Environmental Agency, Ministry of agriculture and environment
- UE - Administrative unit
- MKO- Ministry of agriculture and environment
- SKZGRS - Forest and farmland fond of the Republic of Slovenia (institution responsible for management of state owned land)

3. Executive summary (max 3 pages)

3.1 General progress

The LIFE+ project **Conservation and management of freshwater wetlands in Slovenia** (LIFE09 NAT/SI/000374 WETMAN) started on the 1st February 2011. This midterm report covers the period from the 1st of February 2011 until the 30th of November 2012, and is submitted as required by the EC. The inception report is sent both to the EC and to the external monitoring team Astrale Timesis in paper and electronic versions.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the favorable conservation status of Slovenian freshwater wetland by demonstrating how to revitalize different types of freshwater wetland namely: alpine raised bogs, transition mires, wet meadows, river oxbow lakes and pond. The aim is to establish better conditions for 8 Natura 2000 sites (project pilot areas - PAs), 8 targeted freshwater habitat types and 6 habitats of targeted species as well as biodiversity of the sites.



Picture 1. Project area with locations of the six pilot sites.

General progress of the project is good and the work on the project actions is according to the time plan (refer to chapter 5.1 for the detailed description of the general progress by the action).

LIST OF ACTIONS WITH A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE GENERAL PROGRESS

Action	General progress
A1 - Elaboration of Conservation guidelines	Action completed. Draft "Nature conservation guidelines for pilot area management" (NCG) for all six pilot areas are prepared. Workshops of the working groups and communication workshops organized as planned.
A2 - Permit procedure	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. All needed nature conservation consents, water permits and consensuses were obtained. We are only waiting to obtain building permit for the construction of the gravel barrier in Zelenci PA.
A3 - Car purchase	Completed. Škoda Yeti purchased.
B1 - Land purchase	Resolved. See chapter 3.3.
C1 - Hydrology	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. Technical documentation prepared for all PAs and public tenders are underway.

C2 - Overgrowth	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. Overgrowth removal completed at PA Planik and PA Gornji kal. The action is underway on Pohorje bogs PA and will start shortly on PA Vrhe, PA Mura Petišovci and PA Zelenci.
C3 - Invasive species	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. Fish for the pond Hrast (PA Gornji kal) and PA Mura Petišovci are being fished out.
C4 - Habitat protection	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. Foot paths on Pohorje bogs PA are constructed. Visitors' surveillance on Pohorje bogs PA is established. Data is being downloaded regularly.
C5 - Incorporation of Conservation guidelines into plans	In progress and in line with the planned timetable.
D1 - National and local authority awareness campaign	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. Several events for National and local authority awareness campaign were organized.
D2 - General public awareness campaign	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. The project and LIFE program were promoted through events for general public and local community as well as written media, TV and radio.
D3 – Promotional material	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. We have produced the project info list, project brochure on eight pages, 4 leaflets, 4 transportable banners, 8 post cards, 3 posters and purchased promotional folders and paper bags, hats, caps, three types of t-shirts, umbrellas, calendars, USB keys, pens and drinking bottles.
D4 - Boards	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. The boards announcing LIFE + project at all partner locations have been installed. Other information and notice board are in preparation.
D5 - Project www & project graphical identity	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. The project graphical identity has been produced and the project webpage (www.wetman.si) is accessible over the internet and is regularly updated.
D6 - TV material	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. The scenario of the documentary was set and the scenes are being shot.
D7 - Layman's report	Action not due.
E1 - Project management	The project administration, coordination and management are well established.
E2 - Project evaluation	In progress and in line with the planned timetable. Initial surveys of PAs (covering the following groups: Amphibians, Aves, <i>Emys orbicularis</i> , Odonata and Habitat types) are completed. All subcontractors produced the first reports (Reports of the initial survey). CB ZRSVN prepared "Reports of the initial status of the pilot area".

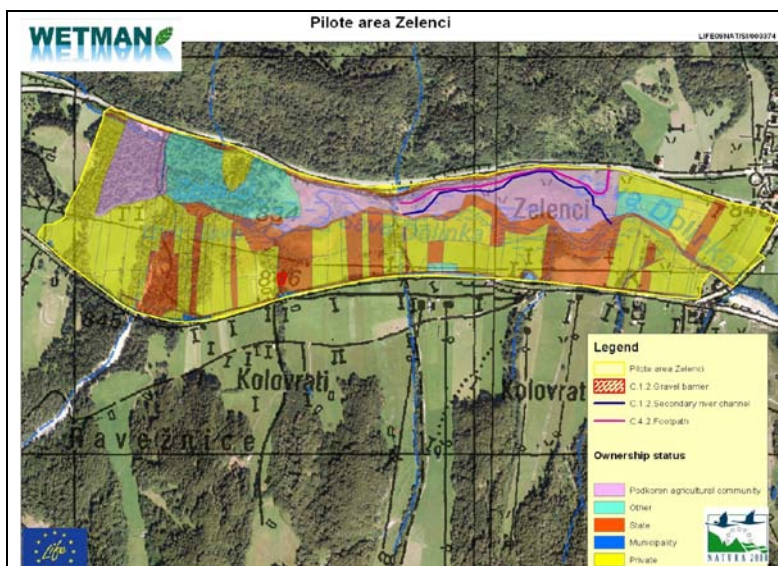
E3 - Revision of the Conservation guidelines	Action not due.
E4 - Audit	Action not due. External audit chosen.
E5 - After LIFE	Action not due.

The list of key deliverables and milestones as defined in the project proposal with the note of their fulfillment considered till reporting date 30st of November 2012 is indicated in the Annex 1.

3.2 Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable

We estimate that the general progress of the project is good. The activities are being carried out according to the planned timetable. Some problems were encountered (see 3.3.).

The activities proposed in the project on PA Zelenci included: Improvement of hydrological (Construction of the gravel barrier and Restoration of the secondary rivers channel Action C.1.2), Removal of overgrowth (Action C.2), prevention of habitat destruction - Construction of the foot path in the length of 350 m (Action C.4.2), preparation of the Nature conservation guidelines for PA management (Action A.1) and the Management plan of the PA Zelenci (Action C.5).



Picture 1: PA Zelenci - Status of the ownership of the land and planned project WETMAN activities.

On the 27th of September 2012 we notified the EC desk officer about the problem and proposed to exclude two actions (Action C.1.2 Improvement of hydrological: Restoration of the secondary rivers channel and Action C.4.2. Prevention of habitat destruction in Zelenci - Construction of the foot path in the length of 350 m) from the project WETMAN, since we did not manage to obtain consensus from the Agrarian community Podkoren till now, even though we put a lot of effort into it (see Annex 4). We obtained the answer from the EC on the 12th of November 2012 stating to elaborate on the impact of the cancellation of these two actions on the achievement of the project objectives in the PA Zelenci in the midterm report.

The hydrological conditions of the PA Zelenci are changed due to two different factors namely deposition of the gravel on the wetlands and filled secondary river channel.

The gravel is brought down by streams flowing into PA Zelenci. The threat is more pronounced since on the mountain hill surrounding the PA Zelenci a ski resort (Kranjska Gora, a world ski champion racing location) is expanding. This means that more land is cleared (the forest is being removed and new skiing slopes built) on slopes surrounding the PA Zelenci. This causes that more gravel is being brought down by the streams into PA Zelenci. The stream Čošelnov graben (the one that the gravel barrier will be constructed on in this project) is flowing directly into the Lakes of Zelenci (the underwater source of Sava Dolinka river – see Picture 2) and is situated upstream in relation to the larger part of PA Zelenci. The area where the gravel is deposited is also subject to fast spreading of overgrowth. The construction of the gravel barrier on Čošelnov graben stream is very important if we are to preserve the Lakes (source of Sava Dolinka river) which is very important for the hydrology of the PA Zelenci.



Picture 2: The stream Čošelnov graben flowing directly into Lakes of the PA Zelenci.

The other factor for the changed hydrological conditions is a blocked secondary river channel, which was filled when the regional road Kranjska Gora - Rateče was constructed. According to the initial hydrological survey of the Zelenci PA conducted by the AB IzVRS the importance of the secondary river channel is on the outflow of high water and not so much on the water table itself. It would support an easier outflow of the high water and washing away of mudflats material from the PA Zelenci. The reconstructed secondary channel (1,0 - 1,2 m depth, 1,5m width, 190m length) would therefore have the most effect when the high waters occur. We asses that if we do not reconstruct the secondary river channel the hydrological conditions of the PA Zelenci would remain altered due to the filled secondary river channel.

The initial objective of the project at PA Zelenci was to improve the hydrological conditions of the PA Zelenci. This objective will still be met with the construction of the gravel barrier which will be carried out in this project and the hydrological conditions will be improved. With the reconstruction of the secondary river channel the effect would be even better.

Zelenci PA is also a very popular tourist destination due to closeness to the Kranjska Gora ski resort and since the site already has tourist infrastructure (a gravel footpath and a watching tower). The new foot path, which we planned to be construct in the proposal, would be build on the edge of the PA, next to the regional road (on already degraded land – Picture 1). The aim of the new foot path was to channel the visitors over the larger area of the PA Zelenci (on an additional foot path which would also link the existing path to the path to Podkoren village). The new path would be constructed in parallel to the mires (targeted habitats) so it would have an additional educational effect for the visitors (since the

information boards were also planned to be erected). The path itself does not affect the condition of the mires itself. The info boards which we planned in the proposal will be placed on the new location (in the existing watching tower). The objective of the project can still be met.

The overall objectives of the project can still be reached. We plan to achieve the set goals as proposed in the project proposal.

We prepared two new activities which are in the frame of the project objectives and could be used as replacement activities (see Annex 30).

3.3 Problems encountered

The activities proposed in the project on pilot area Zelenci included among others also: Action C.1.2 Improvement of hydrological:

- Construction of the gravel barrier
- Restoration of the secondary rivers channel
- Action C.4.2. Prevention of habitat destruction in Zelenci
- Construction of the foot path in the length of 350 m

a. Activities we undertook till now regarding purchasing of the land for the construction of the gravel barrier at PA Zelenci (Action B.1).

When we started with the gathering of the consensus from the land owners we also visited the owners of the parcel where the gravel barrier on PA Zelenci was planned to be constructed. We were informed that the original owner of the parcel died and that the parcel was now in the process of probate.

We managed to resolve the problem by founding of an alternative location for the construction of the gravel barrier and obtained all the necessary consensus. For the detailed description of the event refer to 5.1.4 Action B.1. The change was approved by the EC on the 12th of November 2012 (see Annex 28).

b. Activities we undertook till now regarding obtaining the consensus for the Restoration of the secondary rivers channel (C.1.2) and Prevention of habitat destruction in Zelenci - Construction of the foot path in the length of 350 m (C.4.2)

The land where the two Actions (C.1.2 and C.4.2) were to take place is owned by the Agrarian community Podkoren.

In 1996 an Ordinance on the Regulatory plan of Zelenci; (Official Gazette Gorenjska 32/96) was adopted. The document contained all the activities that would need to be carried out in order to assure that Protected area Zelenci would remain in favorable nature conservation conditions. The importance of each of the activities was prioritized. The document was prepared by experts from different fields (nature conservation, forestry, hydrology spatial planning...) and was open to public debate prior to adoption. Agrarian community Podkoren

did not oppose to the Regulatory plan of Zelenci then. Project WETMAN adopted some of the activities already described in the document Regulatory plan of Zelenci (Official Gazette Gorenjska 32/96).

Since then the executive body of the Agrarian community Podkoren changed.

To obtain the consensus from the Agrarian community Podkoren for the Restoration of the secondary rivers channel (Action C.1.2) and Prevention of habitat destruction in Zelenci - Construction of the foot path in the length of 350 m (Action C.4.2) 14 meeting and workshops were organized by CB ZRSVN (see Annex 4).

In the meantime we considered also other options, among them also to pay the members of the Agrarian community the easement rights. The amount is set by official land appraiser and it is then entered officially to the official Land registry. It turned out that this option is not possible since the members of the Agrarian community Podkoren do not have their orderly succession arranged up to date. That means that the names of members of the Agrarian community cited as land owners in the official Land registry (some are already dead) are not the same as the names of current members of the Agrarian community Podkoren. No legal agreement with Agrarian community could take place.

Later on the project WETMAN manager consulted the ASTRALE monitoring team, Mr. Lischi how to deal with this issue. On the 27th of September 2012 project manager notified the EC desk officer about the problem and proposed to exclude the two actions (Action C.1.2 Improvement of hydrological: Restoration of the secondary rivers channel and Action C.4.2. Prevention of habitat destruction in Zelenci - Construction of the foot path in the length of 350 m) from the project WETMAN, since we did not receive the consensus from the Agrarian community Podkoren till then.

The proposed budget of the two activities in the project proposal was:

	€	Type of cost	Description of activities
C.1.2	150.000	External	Technical hydrological works (building of the gravel barrier and deepening of the secondary river branch)
C.4.2	10.000	Durable	Construction and building of the macadam foot path in Zelenci

AB Institute of water of the Republic of Slovenia (AB IzVRS) prepared Projects of the execution of the hydrological works (Action C.1). These documents contain also assessment of costs.

For the costs of hydrological work as stated in the Projects of the execution of the hydrological works in pilot area Zelenci are presented in the table below:

Description of activities	Assessment of costs (€)
Restoration of the secondary rivers channel	19.950
Construction of the gravel barrier	95.000

In the communication to the EC manager proposed changes to Action C.1 which derived from the outcomes from the workshops of the action E.2 (initial surveys' of the PA) where external subcontractors – expert for different species and habitat types harmonized opinions on optimal implementation of the planned WETMAN activities on the field. This was communicated to the EC desk officer and was later on approved (see Annex 28).

In the communication to the EC desk officer on the 27th of September 2012 the project manager proposed new distribution of costs for the action C.1 (see 5.1.5 and Annex 28).

Action	Pilot area	cost in the proposal	new costs (€)
C.1.1	Pohorje bogs	70.000	80.000
C.1.1	Pohorje - digital piezometers	0	8.000
C.1.2	Zelenci	150.000	95.000
C.1.3	Vrhe	24.000	2.500
C.1.4	Gornji kal	125.000	140.000
C.1.5	Mura Petišovci	75.000	105.000
new	Planik	0	5.000
sum C.1		444.000	435.500

	difference to the proposal		8.500
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In the communication with the EC desk officer on the 27th of September 2012 we asked to reserve these 8.500 € from the Action C.1 and the 10.000 € from the action C.4.2 for the future. In the letter from the EC dated 12th of November 2012 we were asked to evaluate the effect of the cancelation of the two activities on to the project objectives and to elaborate further on the possible new proposed activities. We prepared 2 ideas for activates which are in the frame of the project and its objectives (see Annex 30).

4. Administrative part

Description of project management

The overall project coordination and administration started with the nomination of the project staff (project manager, financial coordinator, administrator, scientific coordinator, local coordinators of the PAs, personal relations experts and partners' coordinators) and organization of the kick off meeting of the project partnership. In the first months of the CB ZRSVN signed all six contracts with the ABs (see Annex 5) and later on also with the co-financers (see Annex 5).

The project team consists of a coordinating beneficiary (CB) and six associated beneficiaries (AB). All associated beneficiaries provided the project manager letters of the nomination of the project staff.

For the easier management for the work Local coordinators (from the CB ZRSVN) were nominated. They coordinate the work of project local teams consisting from CB and AB staff

and representatives of target groups in the specific pilot area. In addition AB coordinators were nominated from each of the AB.

The project is organized as shown on the organigramms (Annex 6).

Since the start of the project the Inception report was prepared and approved.

5. Technical part

The aim of this project is to establish better conditions of six SCIs and two SPAs (in 6 project pilot areas), and assure a favorable conservation status of 8 (two of them priority) targeted freshwater habitat types and 6 habitats of targeted species of Community importance as well as biodiversity of the sites. Following activities were therefore planned in the project proposal: improvement of the hydrological condition, removal of overgrowth, removal of invasive fish species, prevention of habitat destruction and disturbance of species, preparation of the Conservation guidelines for project pilot area management and their incorporation into existing sectoral management to insure the afterlife management of the sites. The activities will be supported by the aware raising campaigns and promotion of the project and LIFE+ mechanism.

Present progress of the project is shown on the chart under chapter 5.2. Envisaged progress until next report.

Complete list of deliverables and milestones as well as the progress is in Annex 1.

Below are short descriptions of project actions and the activities undertaken during project implementation in the period between 01/02/2011 and 30/11/2012.

5.1 Actions

5.1.1 A.1: Elaboration of the “Conservation Guidelines for project area management”

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-III/2012.

Actual starting and expected end dates: August 2011- July 2012

Status of the activities: Completed

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: According to the planned time table

In order to be able to start with the propagation of the »Conservation guidelines for the pilot areas management« an assessment of the initial status of pilot areas had to be made beforehand (Action E2). This was the reason for the Action A.1 to start a bit later and the action E.2 to finish in advance.

Initially the CB-ZRSVN project staff prepared the Form of the “Conservation Guidelines for

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the pilot site management” - (table of contents, headings and instructions on what to include in each heading - see Annex 7). The workshop was organized to present the proposed form of the CG to CB ZRSVN project staff (8th of September 2011, Ljubljana).

Initial drafts of “Conservation Guidelines for the pilot site management” were prepared by the CB-ZRSVN staff, taking into consideration all the “Reports of the initial surveys of the pilot areas” done by the external subcontractors (Action E.2). Draft “Conservation Guidelines for the pilot site management” included: species and habitat types ecological demands, draft nature conservation guidelines and nature conservation measures for species and habitat types. 6 workshops (one for each of the pilot sites) were carried out to review initial drafts of CG within the CB ZRSVN staff:

- 27th of September 2011, Ljubljana for PA Vrhe
- 28th of September 2011, Ljubljana for PA Gornji kal
- 29th of September 2011, Ljubljana for PA Planik
- 6th of October 2011, Ljubljana for PA Pohorje bogs
- 12th of October 2011, Ljubljana for PA Mura Petišovci
- 14th of October 2011, Ljubljana for PA Zelenci

Working groups were assigned for each of the pilot areas. The further development of the “Conservation Guidelines for the pilot site management” of a given pilot area was specific regarding representation of different sectors in the pilot area. Initial draft “Conservation Guidelines for the pilot site management” were first debated and harmonized on a meeting with key sectors (if needed) and then discussed again on a workshop of a working group (jointly by different sectors).

A series of workshops (12) with project partners, relevant national authorities and other relevant stakeholders, depending on the specifics of the project area, were carried out.

Additional 8 workshops (2x PA Pohorje, 1x PA Mura, 1x PA Zelenci, 1x PA Planik, 1x PA Vrhe, 2x PA Gornji kal) communicating “Conservation Guidelines for the pilot site management” to the local community were organized.

For the description of the key events refer to Annex 9.

When draft “Conservation Guidelines for the pilot site management” were prepared AB ZRSVN decided to joined two documents “Report of the initial status of the pilot area” - action E.2 and the “Conservation Guidelines for the pilot site management” into one document: draft “Basis for the management of the pilot area” (see Annex 8). “Basis for the management of the pilot” area include: area identity card, area description, legal status of the area (nature conservation, forestry, water management, fisheries, cultural heritage), current sectoral management, land ownership analysis, historical land use analysis, physical characteristics of the area (hydrology, climate, relief), species and habitat types: its status, description, ecological demands, nature conservation guidelines, reference values of the favorable conservation status and nature conservation measures for species and habitat types (geo-located in ArcGIS), identifications of the stakeholders involved.

Draft “Basis for the management of the pilot area” were reviewed by the projects’ Quality management board on the 21st of September 2012, who approved its structure and contents. These draft documents will be reviewed again after project activities take place (in action E.3).

We managed to prepare inter-sectorally harmonized draft “Basis for the management of the pilot area” for all six pilot sites, covering the area of 4.439,28ha (see Annex 8).

Equipment necessary to carry out this action was purchased: three personal computers with software (for the CB ZRSVN) and one laptop computer with software (for AB ZRSVN), one laptop computer with software (for the CB Občina Kranjska Gora – instead of the projector), one new Concurrent ArcGIS license and upgrade of six existing ArcGIS licenses (for the CB ZRSVN).

The database in Access for the successful keeping of the data of the pilot area management is developed (see Annex 10).

In the proposal a training trip to one of the EU member states (Netherlands) was foreseen. When organizing the trip we came into contact with two National parks (Natura 2000 sites) namely Bavarian forest National Park (Germany) and Šumava National Park (Czech Republic). Both parks have a history of renaturation works on bogs and mires as well as established Natura 2000 site management and tourist management. We therefore asked European Commission to change the location of the training trip and also include two AB (Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovenia Forest Service) in the training trip. The changes were approved and we carried out the training trip to both National parks with the detailed guided field visits to renaturated wetland sites from 12th-17th of September 2011. Experience gained on the training trip is very valuable.



5.1.2 Action A.2: Permit procedures

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-III/2012, for building license for the construction of the gravel barrier on Zelenci PA till December 2012 (according to the inception report)

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011 – December 2012;

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: complex procedure to obtain consensus from the Forest and farmland fund of the Republic of Slovenia

Some interventions foreseen in the project actions (hydrological works, overgrowth removal, fish out of the invasive fish species and foot path construction) fall under the requirement to obtain the Nature conservation consent or Permission for intervention in nature, according to the Article 105. of the Nature Conservation Act. As the interventions foreseen in the project will be carried out on Natura 2000 sites, an Appropriate assessment (according to

Article 6 (III) of the Habitats directive) need to be carried. In addition in order to carry out hydrological works on PA Zelenci and PA Mura Petišovci project areas a Water permit will be acquired.

In order to obtain consensus from the Forest and farmland fund of the Republic of Slovenia (institution responsible for management of state owned land) to carry out activities planned in the project on state owned land we needed to obtain extensive documentation:

- Permission for intervention in nature from the Ministry of agriculture and environment to carry out activities on forests of a special status,
- consensus from State Forest Service of Slovenia,
- extracts from the Land registry for each parcel,
- certificate of a land use for each parcel,
- ownership of the parcels from 1942 onwards,
- information on current land lease,
- if the parcel is in lease, consensus from the tenets,
- certificate from the Administrative unit regarding of denationalization claims,
- if a denationalization claim was registered, a consensus from the potential owner after denationalization.

Several meeting with the Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia and Ministry of environment and spatial planning, Environment Agency took place in order to obtain all the permits and consensuses (see Annex 12).

Following permits and consensuses were obtained

- Nature conservation consents (6)
- Permission for intervention in nature (9)
- Statement that the Nature conservation consent is not needed (1)
- Water permits (7)
- Permission for intervention in nature: to carry out activities on forests of a special status (7)
- Consensus from the other relevant authorities (7)
- Consensus from the landowner (41)
- Decision on the regulation of border (1)

For the detailed list of the obtained permits and consensuses see Annex 29.

All needed permits were obtained, except the building license for the construction of the gravel barrier in Zelenci PA. The application for the building license for the construction of the gravel barrier in Zelenci PA was handed in on the 14th of November 2012.

5.1.3 Action A.3: Car purchase

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-I/2012.

Actual starting and end dates: June 2011- September 2012

Status of the activities: completed

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: The action was finalized ahead of the planned timetable.

In order to be able to carry out project field action at three project areas: Pohorje Bogs, Mura Petišovci and Vrhe a lot of field activities are planned.

The public tender according to the Slovenian legislation for the purchase of a field car was prepared. The tender was closed on the 13th July 2011 and a subcontractor Porsche Slovenia contracted with the car Skoda Yeti. The car has been purchased, registered and is now in use (see Annex 1). Petrol costs of this car are been charged to this action.

5.1.4 Action B.1: - Purchase of land for the gravel barrier building in the Zelenci project area

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-II/2012 (according to the inception report)

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011- September 2012

Status of the activities: resolved

Problems encountered or identified: see 3.3 Problems encountered.

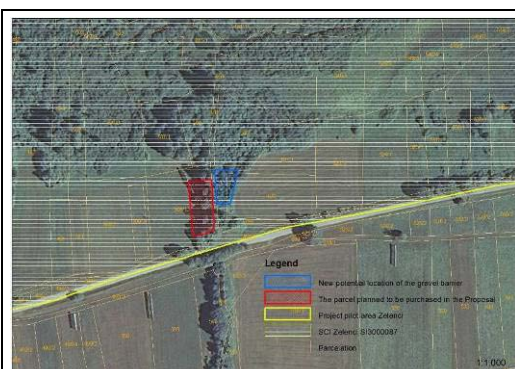
Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the time table from the inception report

The aim is to stop the gravel before it reaches the alkaline fen on the Zelenci project area. The gravel barrier was planned to be built on the mountain stream flowing into Zelenci area.

When preparing the project the owner of the parcel has been contacted and has agreed to the project activities. In the meantime the owner died and the parcel is now in the process of probate.

We tried to resolve the problem and since then we carried out following activities:

- Associated beneficiary Institute of water of the Republic of Slovenia (AB - IzVRS) proposed new potential location which would still be suitable for the construction of the gravel barrier. The new location is partially covering following parcels (parcel numbers 520, 521/1, 522 owned by the Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia (institution responsible for management of State owned land and parcel numbers 796, 822/2, 800/2, 800/2 owned by the Municipality Kranjska Gora). The new location is laying within the pilot area Zelenci and Natura 2000 site). The parcels are.
- We obtained consensus from the Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for the construction of the gravel barrier on the new location (See Annex 2).



Picture 1: Location of the parcel planned for purchase in the proposal and new potential location of the gravel barrier.

stones, changes in the official cadastre, notary costs, costs for the change in the Land register (see TES).

5.1.5 Action C.1 Improvement of hydrological conditions

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: IV/2011-IV/2013.

Actual starting and expected end dates: December 2011- December 2013

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: see Problems encountered

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

As stated in the proposal initial survey reports (Action E.2) will indicate possible timetables and exact location of the improvement of the hydrological conditions taking into account ecological demands of the species and habitat types. In action E.2 we carried out a series of workshops with external subcontractors, who carried out initial surveys' and we managed to harmonize opinions on best implementation of the planned project activities. Adjusted locations of the planned activities would result in best improvement of hydrological conditions but in the same time they would not negatively affect any species or habitat type (see action E.2 for more detailed description). Changes were presented to the EC deck officer and were approved (see below for detailed description and Annex 28)

According to these new data from the action E.2 AB IzVRS prepared preliminary technical documentation "Conceptual projected of the hydrological works for each PA". These projects were used to obtain all the needed permits and project conditions form all institutions involved. Later on the AB IzVRS incorporated the project conditions and prepared "Projects for construction" for all the hydrological activities in the project (see Annex 11).

In the process of the preparation of the "Projects for construction" for all the hydrological activities in the project several meetings and field visits took place.

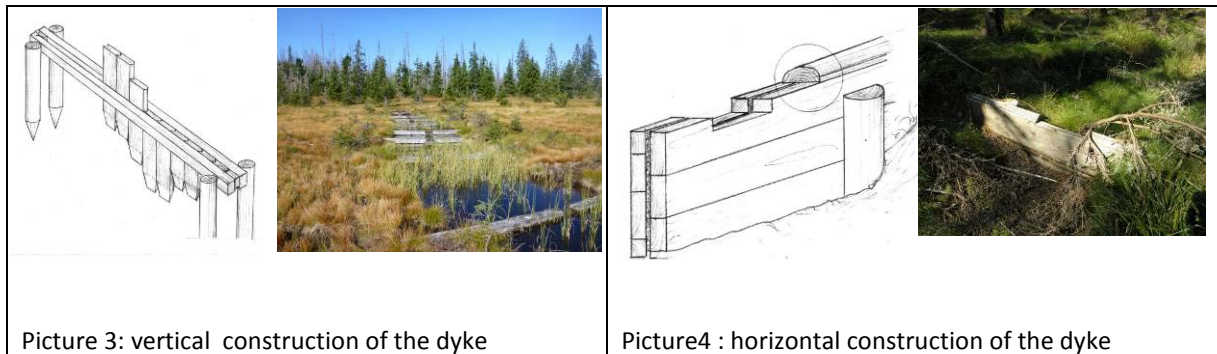
5.1.5.1 Action C.1.1. Improvement of hydrological conditions of the Klopnovrška barja bogs, Javorski vrh bogs and Lovrenška barja bogs.

In the proposal we planned to construct 15 dams on dykes (water outflows) in order to stop the water outflow from the bogs. We proposed to test three different methods of the construction of the dykes.

In action A.1 we visited two National parks (Bavarian forest National park and Šumava National park) that carried extensive bog restoration projects (12th -17th September 2011). We gained valuable information from them. They already tested different methods of the construction of the gravel barrier and found out that the method of the construction needs to be adjusted to the substrata basis underneath the dyke. When construction the dykes on bag substrate the dykes have to be constructed from vertically aliened wooden material which aligns closely to one another (see Picture 3). When construction the dykes on edges of

the bogs where there is hard basis the dyke in best to be constructed from horizontally aligning wood (see Picture 4). They also noted all the details of the construction of different types of dykes.

They stressed that in order to achieve the best results a dyke has to be constructed every 20 cm of a height deferens in a cascade manner (see Picture 3).



According to this new knowledge the AB IzVRS prepared Project for the construction of the dykes on water outflows on Pohorje bogs PA taking into account also studies of the initial status of the PA (Action E.2).

The project for the construction of the dykes on water outflow on Pohorje bogs PA (prepared by AB IzVRS) stated that 84 barriers would have to be construct to achieve the height difference of 1m (1 barrier every 20 cm height difference) on all outflow channels (see Annex 11 – C1 technical documentation). After consultation between CB ZRSVN and AB IzVRS it was concluded that in order to achieve successful hydrological restoration it is estimated that around 70 dykes would be enough. The prepared Project of the hydrological works for PA Pohorje also includes methods for the construction of dykes (incorporation knowledge gained and the financial assessment of the costs. The construction of the dykes planned in the Project of the hydrological works for PA Pohorje is a bit lighter than the one on the basis of which the finances of the hydrological works were assessed when preparing the project. With small additional costs it could be possible to construct 70 dykes.

These changes were approved by the Desk officer by mail on the 9th of July 2012.

According to the initial reports (E.2) the allowed time to carry out activities on the field is from 15th of July (after the mating ritual of protected birds) till 20th of September (before the red deer mating ritual) and from 10th of October (after the deer mating ritual is finished) till 1st of March (starting of the mating ritual of Capercaillie and Black grouse).

We plan to construct the dykes in two seasons: coming winter (2012/2013) and next winter (2013).

5.1.5.2 Action C.1.2. Improvement of hydrological conditions in Zelenci project area

Two activities were planned in the project proposal. Construction of the gravel barrier on one of the streams flowing into Zelenci PA and Restoration of the dry secondary river channel.

Detailed “Projects for construction” for the hydrological action were prepared by the CB IzVRS (Annex 11) according to the initial report (E2).

Regarding restoration of the secondary river channel please refer to Problem encountered.

The construction of the gravel barrier will start as soon as we obtain the building permit (anticipated till the end of December 2012). The gravel barrier will be constructed according to the planned timetable.

5.1.5.3 Action C.1.3. Improvement of hydrological conditions in Vrhe project area

In the project proposal two water outflows from the existing forest skidding track channel were planned to be constructed.

After the initial hydrological surveys of pilot areas (PA) were finished for the PA Vrhe it showed that the most important water catchment area for PA Vrhe is the hill to the east and south of the PA and that the hydrological conditions of are no more so critical. When handing in the project proposal the status was critical so State Forest service of Slovenia (ZGS - also partner in the WETMAN project) carried out urgent repairs to the forest road (Mekete – Blatnica), which cut the water inflow to the PA. The works were conducted in the period 2009/2010. AB



Picture 5: Pilot area Vrhe.

ZGS installed water channels under the forest road and the forest skidding track (in blue - see Picture 5.). The hydrological conditions of the PA Vrhe have improved significantly, so the construction of the water channels planned in the proposal are no more necessary.

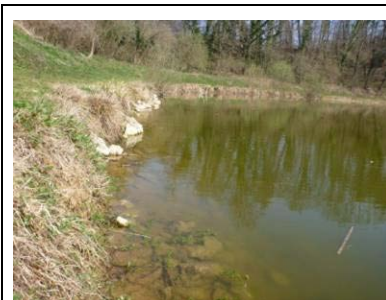
Nevertheless the dispersal channels, distributing the water over the entire pilot area will still be constructed till December 2013.

These changes were approved by the Desk officer by mail on the 9th of July 2012.

5.1.5.4 Action C.1.4. Improvement of hydrological conditions of ponds in the Gornji kal pilot area

In the proposal we planned to dig the sediments out of the ponds Krivača and Kršeljivec (now dry) and renew the clay layer so that the ponds reach the area 0,75 ha. In addition we planned to “capture and lead away the tributary water from the local road in the length of 100 m.

Reports of the initial status of the species carried under E.2 stressed that the status of the population of *Emys orbicularis* at PA Gornji kal (Natura 2000 SI3000073) is critical and a series of necessary works need to be carried out urgently if we're to save *Emys orbicularis* at this site. Only 3 specimens' of *Emys orbicularis* were identified and they were all old specimens. No young turtles were spotted which suggested that there are problems with the nesting and survival of the young turtles. It was stressed in the report of the initial status of the PA Gornji kal that the banks of the existing two ponds are not suitable for *Emys orbicularis* especially for the young just hatched turtles. Currently the banks are a 30-50 cm high drop. (See picture 6).



Picture 6.: Current status of the pond banks.

In addition nesting places (one of which is now the nearby vineyards) get destroyed by agricultural activities. They stressed that the deepening is not as important as the other suggested urgent actions.

After careful investigation by the AB IzVRS they suggested that leading water away from the pond could limit the amount of water coming to the pond. On the other a concrete wall was constructed around the problematic dunk pit in the 2011 so the eutrophication is no longer such a critical issue. Therefore they suggest not capturing the tributary water but to leave the water flow as it is but to make some changes to the bank of the pond next to the road. They suggested planting the small shrubs on the bank, which would act as a mechanical and chemical filter to the tributary water from the local road.

In addition they suggest to make changes to banks of the ponds Krivače and also Hrast and revitalize the pond Kršeljivec altogether according to suggestion from the external experts for the *Emys orbicularis*. e.g the banks need to be diverse (new shallow water “bays” will be constructed), the banks would be readjusted (less steep), small islands as resting places will be constructed and new nesting places arranged close to all three ponds (see Annex 11 – C.1 technical documentation PA Gornji). In order to construct new nesting places soft material would be deposited and would present good nesting ground (not threatened by agricultural activities).

These changes were approved by the Desk officer by mail on the 2nd of August 2012.

A building supervisor (Ambiens, projektiranje in inženiring Črnomelj d.o.o) was subcontracted by the CB ZRSVN on the 19th of July 2012.

The public tender of the hydrological works on PA Gornji kal was prepared and was closed on the 26th of October 2012. External subcontractor VGP Novo mesto was chosen. According to the signed contract, planned finish date of work is set for 21st of March 2012.

5.1.5.5 Action C.1.5 Improvement of hydrological conditions of ponds in the Mura Petišovci pilot area

In the project proposal we planned to revitalize 2 oxbow lakes Nagy Parlag (1,5 ha) and Muriša (1,2 ha). The material would be dig-out to reach the depth of oxbow 2,5 m. A dyke would be constructed between the oxbow lake and macadam road on Nagy Parlag oxbow.

On the workshops with the external subcontractor (experts who carried out the initial surveys') it was stressed that the oxbow lake Csiko Legelo (the oxbow where invasive fish species will be removed from in this project – action C.3) is more urgent for improvement of hydrological conditions than Muriša oxbow lake.

AB IzVRS prepared project for the hydrological works for all three oxbow. The Project of the hydrological works for PA Mura Petišovci includes the detailed maps of proposed works, financial assessment of costs of all the hydrological works for the deepening of the oxbow lakes and the transport and deposition of the extracted material. Regarding the deposition of the excavated material it was evident (after joined field trip by the CB ZRSVN, AB IzVRS and ARSO – see action A.2) that there is no suitable location nearby oxbow Muriša, so all the excavated material would have to be driven to the location in the vicinity of the oxbow Nagy Parlag.

This both facts brought us to the suggestion to carry out the improvement of hydrological conditions on oxbow lakes Nagy Parlag and Csiko Legelo (instead of Muriša) in the same extent as in proposal (totally 2,7 ha).

The costs in the prepared project of the hydrological works for PA Mura Petišovci are higher than the ones in the project proposal especially regarding the transport and deposition of the dig-out material and the complexity of the hydrological works (see Annex 11 – C.1 Technical documentation, PA Mura Petišovci).

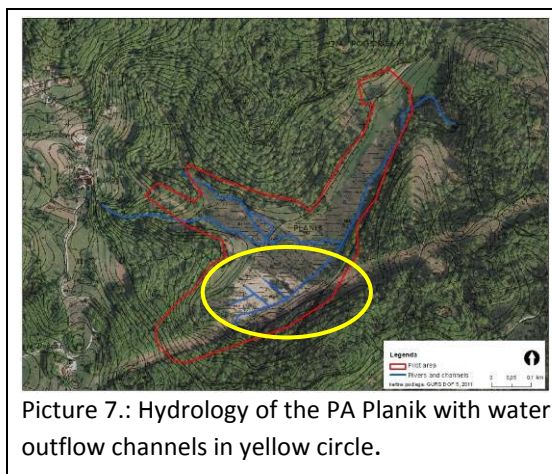
These changes were approved by the Desk officer by mail on the 9th of July 2012.

The public tender of the hydrological works on PA Mura Petišovci was prepared and we are waiting for the response from the European Commission regarding redistribution of costs of the action C.1.

5.1.5.6 Action C.1.6. Improvement of hydrological conditions on Planik pilot area

When conducting initial surveys of hydrology of the PA and after the removal of the overgrowth over the PA Planik it was evident that also PA Planik was drained in the past by construction of the outflow channels, which were not evident before when preparing the project proposal (see pictures 7. – yellow circle). In the project proposal this action was not proposed.

We therefore proposed to construct similar dykes on water channels as on PA Pohorje bogs if possible (if finances will allow) to achieve long-term favorable conditions of the PA.



Picture 7.: Hydrology of the PA Planik with water outflow channels in yellow circle.

These changes were approved by the Desk officer by mail on the 9th of July 2012

5.1.6 Action C.2 Removal of overgrowth

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2012-I/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: January 2012- April 2014.

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

Photo documentation of the activities we undertook are under Annex 13.

5.1.6.1 Action C.2.1. Removal of overgrowth on Pohorje bogs pilot area

The Overgrowth removal will be removed over 10ha in Klopnovrška barja and Javorski vrh bogs on Pohorje bogs PA.

AB ZGS carried out a field marking of the trees to be removed, assigned transport paths and prepared a forest silviculture plan for the planned overgrowth removal activities.

15th of October 2011, PA Pohorje bogs: A volunteer overgrowth removal action was organized jointly by CB ZRSVN, AB ZGS, municipalities Zreče and Mislinja as well as Pohorje nature conservation fund on one of the bog areas inside the Pilot area Pohorje. 38 volunteers managed to clear overgrowth over the area of 0,8ha. Among the volunteers two mayors of Municipalities Zreče and Mislinja joined the event. This activity was also regarded as activity under action D.2.



10th of August 2012, PA Pohorje bogs: A joint field visit was carried out by the CB ZRSVN, AB ZGS and Regional office of the Forest and farmland fond of the Republic of Slovenia

(institution responsible for management of state owned land) where overgrowth removal activities were discussed in detail.

20th of August 2012, PA Pohorje bogs: A field visit was carried out by the representative of CB ZRSVN where special locations (structures in nature: group of trees, specific tree, areas with dense blueberry cover) were identified (by GPS) for the action C.2 (removal of overgrowths). This structure will remain untouched and will not be removed when the action of removal of overgrowth will take place, due to their specific importance to the targeted species (see picture). This will give a mosaic structure of the area after removal of overgrowth which will assure a more suitable habitat for targeted species. Technical documentation (see Annex 14) for the overgrowth removal activities was prepared by CB ZRSVN.



A public tender for the overgrowth removal on Pohorje bogs PA was prepared and the contract for the removal of overgrowth on Pohorje bogs PA was signed with the external subcontractor Gozdno gospodarstvo Maribor on the 19th of October 2012. The overgrowth is now being removed by external subcontractor. The overgrowth removal is being supervised by the AB ZGS and CB ZRSVN. According to the contract the overgrowth will be removed till 31st of December 2012

10th of November and 18th of November 2012, PA Pohorje bogs: Two volunteer overgrowth removal actions were organized at the Javorski vrh bogs.



5.1.6.2 Action C.2.2. Removal of overgrowth on Zelenci pilot area

The Overgrowth removal will be removed over 4ha on Zelenci PA.

AB ZGS prepared forest silviculture plan accordingly (basis for the overgrowth removal activities according to national legislation).

19th of September 2012, PA Zelenci: A joined field visit was organized between CB ZRSVN and Forest and farmland fund of the Republic of Slovenia (institution responsible for management of state owned land) where overgrowth removal activities on parcels in the State ownership were discussed.

The Overgrowth activities will take place over this winter 2012/2013 and from September to November 2013.

5.1.6.3 Action C.2.3. Removal of overgrowth from *Liparis loeselii* habitat in the pilots areas Vrhe and Planik

PA Planik

In the project proposal we planned to remove the overgrowth over 1,0 ha on Planik PA.

10th of December 2011, PA Planik. A volunteer overgrowth removal action was organized by CB ZRSVN. 18 volunteers joint the activity. Approximately 0,75 ha of land has been cleaned. This activity was also regarded as activity under action D.2.



15th of February 2012: volunteer overgrowth removal action at PA Planik activity with the students (27 students and 2 teachers) of the 2nd year for Biotechnical centre Naklo. After the overgrowth removal action carried out in December 2011 some branches were still left on the pilot area so the students cleaned the area of left branches. Additionally the information about wetlands, their importance and conservation as well as project WETMAN and LIFE+ were presented to the students. This activity was also regarded as activity under action D.2.



27th of August 2012, PA Planik: On option of mulching was discussed for the PA Planik. Currently it is hard to persuade someone to cut the grass since it can only be done by hand. If the area would be mulched it might be possible to cut the grass later on by machinery. To check this option a part of PA Planik will be mulched (0,5ha). This was discussed on the joint field meeting attended by CB ZRSVN, AB-IzVRS and Farming and forestry institute of Slovenia, Regional office Kamnik.

1st of September 2012, PA Planik: A field visit was organized between ZRSVN and potential external subcontractor for mulching.

The overgrowth on PA Planik was removed over the area of 0,75ha.

PA Vrhe

In the project proposal we planned to remove the overgrowth over 1,1ha on Vrhe PA.

4th of April 2012, PA Vrhe: A field visit of CB ZRSVN, AB ZGS and the land owner was organized where details of the overgrowth removal action were discussed.

AB ZGS prepared forest silviculture plan accordingly (basis for the overgrowth removal activities according to national legislation) and marked the trees to be removed on the field.

8th of November 2012, PA Vrhe: The details of overgrowth removal action were discussed by the land owner, AB ZGS and CB ZRSVN. The



time planned and the transport routes were set.

One half of the area will be removed in the winter 2012/2013 and the other half the next winter (according to the request from the land owner.)

5.1.6.4 Action C.2.4. Removal of overgrowth on Gornji kal pilot area

The overgrowth will be removed over 0,4ha on Gornji kal PA.

10th of January 2012, PA Gornji kal: a joined field trip was organized where CB ZRSVN and AB ZGS planned the overgrowth removal action in detail. AB ZGS prepared the forest silviculture plan accordingly (basis for the overgrowth removal activities according to national legislation).

Beginning of February 2012, PA Gornji kal: External subcontractor Gozdar, Brigita Grahek Šolar, sp was contracted. An overgrowth removal action was carried out on PA Gornji kal on all 3 ponds. 1,12 ha of overgrowth was removed.

At the PA Gornji kal left over branches from the overgrowth removal action were grinded and the material taken away for the area. The owner of the area where the overgrowth removal took place is by Slovenian law also the owner of the wood and other material resulting from the overgrowth removal action. We had no profit from the material.

September, October 2012: According to the prepared project for the construction of the pond Kršeljivec (prepared by the AB IzVRS) additional vegetation would have to be removed. AB ZGS additional marked the trees (4th of October 2012) and prepared the Forest silviculture and the external subcontractor Gozdar, Brigita Grahek Šolar, sp. removed the vegetation in additional area of 0,11ha.



1,23 ha of overgrowth was removed over the area of the three ponds on PA Gornji kal.

5.1.6.5 Action C.2.5. Removal of overgrowth from oxbows Nagy Parlag and Muriša in Mura Petišovci pilot area

The overgrowth will be removed over 4ha on Mura Petišovci PA.

In the project proposal we planned to remove the overgrowth on 2 oxbow lakes Nagy Parlag and Muriša over the area of 4ha.

On the workshops with the external subcontractor (experts who carried out the initial surveys') it was stressed that the oxbow lake Csiko Legelo (the oxbow where invasive fish species will be removed from in this project – action C.3) is more urgent for improvement of the favorable conditions than Muriša oxbow lake. So we will remove the overgrowth of the oxbow lakes Csiko Legelo and Nagy Parlag (4,7 ha).

The oxbow lakes are not officially forested area (are not under jurisdiction of the AB ZGS) so no silviculture plan is needed. Public tender is in preparation.

5.1.7 Action C.3 Removal of the invasive species

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2012-III/2013.

Actual starting and expected end dates: July 2011- September 2013

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

Following equipment was bought (fishing lines and fishing fyke nets (instead of sub water camera - approved by EC) by AB ZZRS.

Photo documentation of the activities is in the Annex 15.

5.1.7.1 Action C.3.1 Removal of the invasive fish species from the “Hrast” pond in the Gornji kal project area

Fishing Association Črnomelj entered an invasive allochthonous fish species *Silurus glanis* to the pond Hrast. The negative impact on targeted species *Emys orbicularis* can be observed due to competition over food and habitat. The population of the Wels catfish (*Silurus glanis*) will be fished out from the pond. The fish-out will be done by AB ZZRS (The Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia).

Cooperation between CB and local Fishing Society of Črnomelj was established. The Fishing competition “Wels Catfish of the Hrast pond 2011” was organized in cooperation between CB ZRSVN, AB ZZRS and Fishing society of Črnomelj on the 6th of August 2011. 56 people attended the event among them local fisherman and local community members. The competition was accompanied by the presentation of the project activities, especially of the pilot area Gornji kal, Natura 2000 network and financial mechanism LIFE+. The captured fish were transported to the nearby artificial pond, managed by the Fishing society of Črnomelj, which is not a Natura 2000 site. Local fishermen were encouraged to targetly fish out Wels catfish.



15th of March 2012, PA Gornji kal: AB ZZRS together with the Fishing society Črnomelj carried out Electro fishing from a boat combined with fishing nets barriers. 9 different fish species were caught. All together 525 fish with biomass of 92,4 kg were removed from Hrast fish pond. All fish were transported in fish tanks and stocked by the local fishing club Črnomelj in new commercial fish pond Mlake, nearby abandoned Kanižarica mine. At the same time some physical and chemical parameters (temperature, oxygen, pH, conductivity) of water were measured.



24th and 25th of May 2012 Pa Gornji kal: Fishing was carried out with set of 15 special bottom stationary single hook fishing system anchored to the bottom of Hrast fish pond with 2 kg weight and marked with floating tags made by Styrofoam. On every of 15 stationary bottom single hook a bait of meat (liver and fish) were hanged on. The target fish species was wels cat fish (*Silurus glanis*). Wels cat fish is a night time predator and usually predate by night. That is why all the single hook were set in the water in the afternoon and removed next day in the morning. Unfortunately, opposite of our expectations, not a single wels cat fish was caught.

25th of August 2012; PA Gornji kal: The event "Fishing competition: Catfish of the Hrast pond 2012" was organized jointly by CB ZRSVN, AB ZZRS and Fishing association Črnomelj. A set of presentations (Fish of the pond Gornji kal (by Fishing association Črnomelj), Plants and animals of PA Gornji kal (by CB ZRSVN) and draft of Fish management plan for Adlešiči - part covering pond Gornji kal (by AB ZZRS) were presented. The competition followed the event of the public awareness. 45 people joint the event. Local fishermen were encouraged to targetly fish out Wels catfish.



Data gathered from the Fishing club Črnomelj show that altogether 61 Wels catfish were caught by the local fisherman in 2012.

3rd -5th of October 2012 PA Gornji kal: on the first day of fishing nets (fyke net) were set in the Hrast fish pond. The fyke nets stayed in the water for 3 days. Each morning the nets were checked and fish counted and measured. After three days the fyke fishing nets were raised. The total catch was under our expectations. No wels cat fish were caught.

5.1.7.2 Action C.3.2 Removal of the invasive species from all three project oxbow lakes in the Mura Petišovci project area

Mass entering of allochthonous species (such as Grass Carp, Sunfish and Pseudorasbora) caused a significant change in the oxbow lakes biocenosis. The negative impact can be observed for all autochthonous species (competition over food and habitat). The populations of invasive allochthonous fish species *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, *Micropterus salmoides* and *Pseudorasbora parva* will be fished out from the following oxbow lakes "Nagy parlag", "Muriša", and "Csiko Legelo". The fish-out will be done by The Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia.

Cooperation between CB ZRSVN and local Fishing Society of Lendava was established. Subsequently a joined field visit to all three oxbows on Mura Petišovci pilot area was organized on the 5th of May 2011. Following project members participated: CB, AS ZZRS, AB IzVRS and local Fishing society of Lendava.



11th – 13th of July 2012, Muriša: On first day the water vegetation in the Muriša oxbow lake was removed in order to make place for the fyke fishing nets. At the same time some of the riparian vegetation was cut off and the access to the water surface and launching the boat

was enabled. The fyke nets stayed in the water for 3 days. Each morning the nets were checked and fish counted and measured. After three days the fyke fishing nets were raised. All together 141 fish with biomass of 8.289 g, belonging to 8 different fish species, were caught. Native fish species were returned into the Muriša oxbow lake. Non-native fish species were eliminated. Fishing season 2012 is still lasting. Because of high air temperatures, water temperature is above average values. Fish are still active and we plan to perform another action of eliminating non native fish species this year.

5.1.8 Action C.4: Prevention of the habitat destruction and disturbance of species

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: VI/2011-IV/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: July 2011- December 2014 (works have started a bit in advance)

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: for C.4.2. see Problems encountered

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

Photo documentation in the Annex 16.

5.1.8.1 Action C.4.1 Prevention of habitat destruction and disturbance of species in Pohorje bogs project area

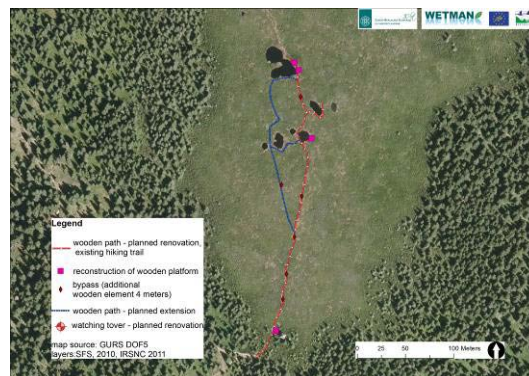
The mass-hiking and the presence of cyclists and motor vehicles in summer and in winter is damaging Pohorje bog habitats.

In the project proposal we planned to built wooden foot-paths the Pohorje bogs PA ("Lovrenška barja", Ribniško barje" and "Črno jezero") in the total length of 750 m and to construct a simple fence in the most sensitive parts area (app. 200m) to prevent visitors from walking off the trail. In addition renew the existing worn out watching tower in "Lovrenška barja".

7th of September 2011, PA Pohorje bogs: A joint field visit to Lovrenška Barja bogs was carried out by CB (ZRSVN), AB (ZGS) and a structural engineer in order to prepare detailed plan for the construction of the foot-paths and renewal of the watching tower. The detailed construction plan of foot-paths and watching tower was prepared and a simple step by step work plan for the construction work is in preparation. The exact quantity of needed wood on other preparations on the field (access roads, storage areas...) were later on calculated and assigned by the AB ZGS.

According to the knowledge gained in the field trip to Bavarian forest National Park (see action A.1) and first results for the IR counter counting visitors (see action C.4.3) CB ZRSVN proposed to not only reconstruct the existing foot path at Lovrenška jezera bogs but to additionally construct a foot path in a loop manor (see picture below). This idea was supported on a workshop (see action E.2) by external subcontractors carrying out initial

surveys' (species and habitat experts). This would help better flow of visitors of the Lovrenška jezera bogs and prevent people from stepping of the foot path. The idea was also checked and harmonized with the RTC Rogla (ski resort Rogla where most of the visitors to Lovrenška jezera bogs come from).



The external subcontractor for the construction of the foot path on Lovrenška jezera bogs and Ribniško jezero bog as well as to assure the material for the construction of the foot path in Črno jezero was subcontracted (Gozdno gospodarstvo Slovenj Gradec).

Several field joined trips took place to organize works for the re-construction of the foot paths. A joined filed tip was carried out by the representatives of CB ZRSVN, AB ZGS and external subcontractor for the construction of the wooden footpaths' on Lovrenška barja bogs. Location of the new track was marked on the field and transport paths set.

CB ZRSVN along with AB ZGS conducted a field visit to pilot area Pohorje to decide on locations for wood to be stored.

When the re-construction was underway constant supervision was assured by AB ZGS and occasionally joined by CB ZRSVN.

On the 18th of August 2012 a volunteer action took place on Lovrenška barja bogs where volunteers removed the vegetation for the construction of the new loop of the foot path.

When we started with the communication for the rebuilt the wooden foot path at Črno jezero bogs local stakeholder (Mountaineering association Slovenska Bistrica and Tourist association Kebel) were prepared to be actively involved in the re-construction of the foot path. It was agreed that CB ZRSVN would use the money assigned in the project proposal to provide the material for the reconstruction of the foot path in the length of 864m (entire length of the foot path from the parking to the Črno jezero bogs) but the construction of the foot path would be carried out solely by volunteer involvement of members of the Slovene Army, Mountaineering association Slovenska Bistrica and Tourist association Kebel.

Several meeting took place in the office and in the field between CB ZRSVN and members of the Mountaineering association Slovenska Bistrica and Tourist association Kebel to prepare the activates and assure the quality of the work to be carried out. The foot path was constructed in the length of 864m solely by volunteer involvement of the Slovene Army, Mountaineering association Slovenska Bistrica and Tourist association Kebel (in total 2913 volunteer hours).

All the foot paths are re-built in the following length: Lovrenška jezera bogs 664m, Ribniško jezero bog 175m, Črno jezero 864m. Total length of the new foot paths is 1703m.

Photo documentation of the activities is in the Annex 16.

Watching tower will be reconstructed in the spring 2013.

5.1.8.2 Action C.4.2 Prevention of habitat destruction on Zelenci project area

See problem encountered.

5.1.8.3 Action C.4.3 Visitors' surveillance on the Pohorje bogs project area

When we prepared the project proposal we did not have any data on number of visitors per site (Pohorje bogs, namely »Lovrenška barja« bogs, »Ribniško barje« bogs and »Črno jezero« bogs) or their seasonal fluctuation. These data were needed with the aim to establish visitors' controls over targeted Pohorje bogs project area. In the project proposal we planned to install three IR visitor counters on Lovrenška barja, Ribniško barje and Črno. Counters (Passive Infra-Red (PIR) body-heat sensors) will count the number of visitors 24 hours per day. Data will be analysed and processed.

The supplier was chosen (ExseGesIS, UK) on a public tender. The sensors (3 passive infra red body heat sensors) and associated software were purchased and installed at visitors main entrances at "Lovrenška barja« bogs, »Ribniško barje« bogs and »Črno jezero« bogs from 24th-26th of September 2011 by the supplier.



Data are downloaded every two months and are analyzed and processed.

In addition CB ZRSVN conducted a one day (27th of August 2011) counting of the visitors on Lovrenška barja bogs. Visitors were classified according to their organization (individual, couple, family and group) and by age (till 15, 15-50, over 50 years of age).

Data combined from the IR counters and the one day classification gives us a good insight into visitors' structure and 24h dynamics.

Data from the counters and photo documentation is in the Annex 16.

5.1.9 Action C.5 Incorporation of the "Conservation guidelines" for the project area management into the sectoral management plans

Planned duration of the action in the proposal III/2012-I/2015.

Actual starting and expected end dates: September 2012 - January 2015

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

CB ZRSVN in cooperation with AB ZGS, AB ZZRS and AB IzVRS prepared harmonized "Guidelines for pilot area management" (see action a.1). They will be incorporated into relevant sectoral plans by the end of the project.

October, November 2011: According to the prepared "Guidelines for pilot area management" (from action A.1) AB ZGS (Regional offices Maribor, Slovenj Gradec and Celje) prepared draft Regional forest management plans covering the area of PA Pohorje and AB ZGS (Regional office Murska Sobota) prepared draft Regional forest management plan covering the area of PA Mura Petišovci. Regional forest management plans include conservation guidelines on strategic level. These are the basis for the inclusion of specific concrete conversation guidelines into Forest unit management plans, which are the most important for Natura 2000 management. A regional forest management plan covers the area of several Forest unit management plans.

According to the prepared draft "Guidelines for pilot area management" (from action A.1) AB ZGS (Regional office Slovenj Gradec) prepared draft Hunting management plan for Pohorje (covering PA Pohorje bogs).

17th of November 2011, Slovenj Gradec and 22nd of November 2011, Pucovci: Two Regional forest management plans of Slovenj Gradec and Murska Sobota and the Hunting management plan for Pohorje, prepared by the AB-ZGS, were open to public discussion. CB ZRSVN and AB ZGS jointly overviewed the prepared Regional forest management plans regarding the incorporation of nature conservation guidelines prepared in the action A1. The prepared planes contained all the prepared nature conservation guidelines or pilot area management. These three plans were adopted by Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the 8th of November 2012.

February - June 2012: On the basis of "Guidelines for pilot area management" (from action A.1) CB ZRSVN prepared Conservation guidelines for Forest unit management plan for:

- Dolinsko (covering PA Mura Petišovci), on 16th of March 2012
- Adlešiči (covering PA Gornji kal) on 17th of April 2012
- Lobnica (partially covering PA Pohorje bogs) on 2th of July 2012.

Conservation guidelines were presented at workshops (for Dolinsko 14th of February 2012 and Lobnica 13th of June 2012).

Forest unit management plan are being prepared by the AB ZGS, and will later on in 2013 be open to public discussion. They will be adopted by Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment.

June 2012: According to the prepared draft "Guidelines for pilot area management" (from action A.1) AB ZZRS prepared draft Fish management plan Črnomalski rog (covering PA Gornji kal) and draft Fish management plan Lendava (covering PA Mura Petišovci).

28th of August 2012, Lendava: Forest unit management plan Dolinsko (covering PA Mura Petišovci) was open to public discussion. ZRSVN and ZGS jointly overviewed the prepared Forest management plan regarding the incorporation of nature conservation guidelines

prepared in the action A1. The Unit forest management plan Dolinsko is currently in process of being adopted on Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment.

8th of October 2012, Kranjska Gora: A workshop was organized in the process of the preparation of the management plan for PA Zelenci. SWOT analysis of protected area Zelenci was carried out by the local stakeholder in addition a draft "Vision Zelenci 2030" was formulated.

5.1.10 Action D.1 National and local authority education project

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: IV/2011-IV/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: June 2011 - December 2014.

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

The aim of this action is to educate targeted audience (namely: municipalities representatives', District foresters, Farming advisory services, Slovene Police, Nature environment Inspectors, members of fishing clubs) about the importance of wetlands, Natura 2000 network, its habitats and species, their requirements and conservation measures as well as appropriate management of the area for the maintenance of favorable conservation status of species and habitats. This action includes 11 workshops with targeted groups and 7 meetings with mayors and municipalities' councils.

Till now 14 meetings with municipality representatives, 5 meetings with Slovenia Agricultural and Forestry Chamber, 6 meetings /workshops with Farming and forestry fond of the Republic of Slovenia. For meetings / workshops with Slovenia district foresters (AB ZGS) see action A.1 and C.2. For meetings with representatives of the Hunting clubs (local hunter) see action A.1.

See Annex 17 for the description of the event.

A series of workshops for targeted audience (Farming advisory services, Slovene Police and Nature environment Inspectors) are planned for 2013 and 2014.

5.1.11 Action D.2 General public and local community awareness campaign

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-I/2015.

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011- January 2015.

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

For the easier implementation of the public awareness actions CB ZSRVN prepared Communication planes for each pilot area (See annex 18).

For events for local farmers and foresters see action A.1

Till now following events were organized: 3 press conferences, 25 events for general public, local community and other interested groups, several volunteer actions, 8 events for elementary school children and youth, 4 photo exhibitions. Project WETMAN and LIFE+ were also promoted at the Nature health fair.

See Annex 18 for description of events.

RTV radio broadcasts and articles:

From the beginning of the project till 1st of November 2011 45 printed newspapers articles (around 2.053.200 people reached), at least 72 internet articles (around 131.100 people reached) were published. In addition 11 radio and television broadcasts took place (around 10.150 people reached).

In order to record the events digital camera with HD camera was purchased by CB ZRSVN. External const also include costs of the fair, organization of the press conferences and student support.

5.1.12 Action D.3 Promotional material

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-I/2015.

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011 – January 2015

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

The aim of the action is to help promote the project its activities and goals.

Following promotional materials were produced till now (see Annex 1).

In the beginning of the project, a project info-sheet were printed in Slovenian language (2000 copies). English, German and Hungarian versions were produced only in .pdf format. It summarizes the main information on the project, project areas and species/habitats involved its actions, project aims and goals.

Additionally, a project brochure on eight pages was printed. The brochure give detailed information on project areas, project targeted species/habitats and general information about the aim of the project, project action and its results and goals as well as Life+ mechanism. The brochure was printed in Slovenian language (3000 copies), English (1000 copies), German (500 copies) and Hungarian (500 copies).

3 leaflets (PA Pohorje bogs, PA Mura Petišovci, PA Gornji kal) were printed, describing project areas, each on eight pages, to give more detailed information on project habitats and species and project goals and planned activities as well as Life+ mechanism. Leaflets were printed in Slovenian language (1000 copies), English (1000 copies). Additionally, German and Hungarian were also printed for Pohorje PA (200 copies in German) and Mura Petišovci (1000 copies in Hungarian and 200 copies in German language).

A leaflet about Zelenci PA was also prepared and designed for children. It was printed in 1000 copies in Slovenian, 1000 copies in English, 1000 copies in German and 1000 copies in Italian language.

Four transportable promotional banners (100cm x 200cm) were produced to support all project activities. One for central unit coordination (covering all pilot sites) and an additional one for each of the Regional units of CB ZRSVN namely: Regional unit Maribor covering PA Pohorje, Vrhe and Mura Petišovci; CB ZRSVN Regional unit Kranj PA Zelenci and Planik and CB ZRSVN Regional unit Kranj Novo mesto covering PA Gornji kal.

All project publications are available in .pdf format at project web page:

<http://www.wetman.si/publikacije/o-projektu> and
<http://www.wetman.si/publications/about-the-project>

Additionally, 3 different promotion posters were printed in 500 copies each, 8 different postcards (30.000 all together), a promotion folder (500 pieces) and two paper bags (500 pieces each, 1000 together), hats, umbrellas, calendars, USB storage keys promotional material (balloons, reflective pendants) 3 different T-shirts (708 together), 500 project business diary for project promotion and presentation, drinking bottles (50 pieces) and other small material (pens, balloon, reflective pendants). The promotional material carries following logos: LIFE+, Natura 2000 and WETMAN.

For the preparation of the project promotional material photo material was purchased (till now 37 digital photos). Additional pictures will be purchased for the preparation for the preparation of the bards.

A double sided laser color printer was purchased for the printing of different promotional material by the CB ZRSVN.

See Annex 1 for photo documentation.

5.1.13 Action D.4 Information and notice boards

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: III/2011-II/2012, III/2113 – III/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: June 2011- September 2014.

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

10 notice boards announcing LIFE+ project WETMAN at all project partners' locations have been placed.

Other notice and information board are in preparation.

5.1.14 Action D.5 The project's web page and project graphical identity

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-I/2015.

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011 - January 2015.

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

- Project graphic identity was produced together with promotional pictures which will be used for different promotional purpose (see Annex 1). Project graphic identity guide and all project templates have been prepared and disseminated among project beneficiaries.

- The project webpage (www.wetman.si) is accessible over the internet and is being updated regularly.



5.1.15 Action D.6 Project documentary and 3 TV spots

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: III/2011-II/2013.

Actual starting and expected end dates: April 2011- July 2013.

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

The educational program group on the AB RTV (the Slovene national TV,) is preparing and will broadcast 25-30 minutes long documentary and 3 (3-5 minutes long) TV spots.

15th of April 2011, Ljubljana: A (brainstorming) workshop was organized by CB ZRSVN. The aim of the documentary, detailed contents, targeted audience; specific areas to be presented were identified. In addition the message of the three short spots was identified. The workshop included project personnel from CB, different B, external (not project) representatives from Regional Units from ZRSVN, Ramsar convention and local tourist organization.



Documentary film scenario was prepared according to the results from the workshop by the AB RTV SLO and CB ZSRVN, the speaker (Mr. Miho Šalehar) and film cure were subcontracted (Mr. Rado Likon cameraman, and Ms. Maja Senekovič film director) by the AB RTV SLO. Scenes are being shot (15 filed days)

See Annex 19 for the photo documentation.

All films (the documentary and the 3 TV shots) will be prepared in the format which can be widely used in all awareness rising activities. They will also be accessible through the project web site as well as the Institutes' web site. All the films will be prepared till the end of May 2013.

5.1.16 Action D.7 Layman's report

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: III/2014-IV/2014.

Status of the activities: not due

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

5.1.17 Action E.1 Project co-ordination and management

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011 - I/2015.

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011 - January 2015

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

Comparison of the progress with the established time schedule: according to the planned time table

For the organization of the project management refer to chapter 4.

The project WETMAN coordinator is in a regular contact with local coordinators as well as with AB coordinators. The project local group members (for a given PA) have been regularly meeting and working together and/or independently on their actions. They all (local coordinators and AB coordinators) monthly produce written reports on progress being done on the project to the project manager.

Currently 68 staff members are working on the project. The project manager is being in regular contact with local coordinators as well as ABs coordinators.

A handbook "Management plan of the project WETMAN" was produced by the CB ZRSVN (see Annex 20) for the easier management of the project. It covers contents of the LIFE+ regulation, LIFE + Common provisions and reporting requirement of the EC and internal reporting rules.

The Project Quality board and the Project Steering committee were formed (refer to Chapter 4.1). Each of the two boards met three times till now (30th of March 2011, 14th of February 2012 and 21st of September 2012). Each of the board consists of one member from each of the beneficiaries. In the Project Quality board nominated member are represented by

professional staff of each of the beneficiaries and in the Project Steering committee nominated member are represented by management staff of each of the beneficiaries.

Two meeting of the partnership were organized (30th-31st of March 2011 and 14th-15th of September 2012).

Regular coordination meetings (seven) are organized for the CB ZRSVN staff where project manager and all local coordinators review the work and plan future activities. Coordinating beneficiary also organized meeting, workshops and joint field trips (CB, ABs and others according to needs) to PA where future activities were discussed, harmonized and future work planned.

The project WETMAN organized several networking meeting for the exchange of good practice and knowledge with following projects:

- Establishing long-term protection of (*Crex crex*) in Slovenia (LIFE03NAT/SLO/000077) (29th of May 2012, Ljubljana)
- Conservation of the biodiversity of the Mura river in Slovenia - BioMura (LIFE06NAT/SI/000066) (14th of September 2012, 15th of March 2012, Ižakovci. Pilot site of the project BioMura in Slovenia was river Mura as PA of the project WETMAN.
- Managing Natural Assets and Protected Areas as Sustainable Regional Development Opportunities - NATREG (Territorial cooperation, Southeast Europe programme), Pilot site of the project NATREG in Slovenia was Pohorje same as PA of the project WETMAN (22nd-23rd of June 2011, Novi Sad, Vojvodina, 12th of July 2011, Maribor).
- Sustainable management of alpine pastures in protected areas - ALPA; (Territorial cooperation, cross-boarded program SLO-AT) where one of the pilot sites is Pohorje; same as PA of the project WETMAN. The aim was to get to know the foreseen activities of the project ALPA and to network between the two projects. (15th of March 2012, Maribor)
- Representative of the CB ZRSVN visited a pilot area Jovsi in finished LIFE III project Natura 2000 in Slovenia - Management models and information system LIFE 04/NAT/SI/000240 in order to get field experiences regarding further foreseen actions in pilot area Gornji kal (18th of July 2012)

Project WETMAN was presented at the, Montenegro: International conference titled "Zaštita prirode u 21. vijeku" (engl: Nature conservation in the 21th century, 20th to 23rd of September, Žabljak). Local coordinator of the pilot area Gornji kal presented CB ZRSVNs effort to preserve wetlands - ponds thought different projects among them also WETMAN. The representative of ZRSVN presented a talk titled: "Biodiversity conservation through pond revitalization" where project WETMAN and LIFE+ mechanism were presented. (Costs not charged to WATMAN)

For the description of the events refer to Annex 21.

The coordination of the project is going on well.

Durable goods of the CB (laptop computer with software and digital camera) were purchased following the public procurement rules. The project manager used a trial version

the Project managing software but found it too time consuming. We propose to use the money to occasional support project management.

5.1.18 Action E.2 Project monitoring and evaluation

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2011-I/2012, II/2013 – IV/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: February 2011- October 2011, April 2013 – December 2014

Status of the activities: in progress

Problems encountered or identified: /

In order to be able to evaluate the effects the project actions a project monitoring will be carried out. Since limited or no scientific data are currently available on status of habitat types and species of Community interest on chosen project pilot areas initial surveys of fauna, flora and habitat types will be carried out.

CB and ABs first reviewed existing documentation and prepared information documents and maps (1:5000) needed for the initial surveys.

The initial survey of the status of species and habitats was carried out by different parties:

- Bird species at the Pohorje bogs project was conducted by CB ZRSVN and AB ZGS.
- Invasive fish species was conducted by AB ZZRS.
- Extent and the ecological conditions of bog forests on PA Pohorje bogs was conducted by AB ZGS.
- Hydrology monitoring was conducted by AB IzVRS.
- The monitoring of water quality in the Zelenci project area will be carried out by a subcontractor, in order to determine the success of fertilizers pollution reduction.
- The monitoring of other targeted species and habitats will be carried out by contracted experts.

The CB ZRSVN then prepared an open Public tenders covering initial surveys of pilot areas and monitoring of the effect of the project actions (separately covering following groups: Amphibians, Aves, *Emys orbicularis*, Odonata and Habitat types and *Liparis loeselii*). The tender was closed on the 22nd of April 2011. Offers were reviewed and best offers chosen. Different external subcontractors were contracted (see Annex 22):

- Contract for Amphibians signed with the Center za kartografijo favne in flore on the 25th of February 2011.
- Contract for Aves signed with the Društvo za opazovanje in proučevanje ptic Slovenije on the 29th of March 2011.
- Contract for *Emys orbicularis* signed with Center za kartografijo favne in flore were signed on the 29th of March 2011.
- Contract for Odonata signed with Pronatura, Matjaž Bedjanič s.p. on the 29th of March 2011.
- Contract for habitat types of alpine raised bogs on Pohorje pilot area was signed by Univerza v Mariboru, Fakulteta za naravoslovje in matematiko on the 23rd of May 2011.

- Contract for habitat types oxbows lakes of Mura pilot area signed by Univerza v Mariboru, Fakulteta za naravoslovje in matematiko on the 23rd of May 2011.
- Contract for habitat types of transition mires, fens and wet grasslands including survey of *Liparis loeselii* on project pilot areas Zelenci, Vrhe and Planik were signed with the Znanstveno raziskovalni center Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti on the 23rd of May 2011.

Subsequently representatives of CB ZRSVN organized joint field visits and workshops of working groups and subcontractors to the pilot sites in order to clarify the subcontracted work. CB ZRSVN later occasionally joined the subcontractors at their field work.



All subcontractors produced first reports (Report of the initial survey of the pilot area; refer to Annex 23).

Two internal CB ZRSVN workshops for the preparation of the "Guidelines for the preparation of the Reports of the initial status of the Pilot area" were organized where the form of the "Guidelines for the preparation of the Reports of the initial status of the Pilot area" prepared by the CB ZRSVN was overviewed, discussed and instruction were given on how to fill the Form.

CB ZRSVN experts then prepared draft "Reports of the initial status of the pilot areas" taking into consideration also reports of the initial surveys. Each of the six draft "Reports of the initial status" contained all aspect related to the management of the PA: area description, hysterical land use, existing management plans of different sectors as well as their ecological requirements and nature conservation objectives, possible timetables for the activities, reference values, indicators, graphically representation of recommended measures for specific species or habitat types. The prepared draft "Reports of the initial status" were overviewed and discussed by expert from the CB ZRSVN on 6 workshops (one for each of the pilot sites) which took place on the 27th (PA Vrhe), 28th (PA Gornji kal), 29th of September 2011 (PA Planik), 6th (PA Pohorje), 12th (PA Mura) and 14th of October 2011 (PA Zelenci).

Representatives of the CB ZRSVN also joined all the data from graphically representation of recommended measures for specific species or habitat types prepared by the external experts and prepared a map of proposed WETAMN activities taking into the account all measures from all the reports. The draft "Reports of the initial status of pilot areas" together with the proposed maps were then discussed on 6 workshops of the working groups (external subcontractors – habitat and species specialists, partners and land management experts (20th: Vrhe, Zelenci, and Planik, 26th: Mura and Gornji kal and 27th of October 2011: Pohorje bogs). New maps of locations of WETMAN activities for 6 pilot sites were prepared,

which were agreed among all members of the working groups to be optimal the favorable conditions of all the Natura 2000 species and habitat types of the pilot areas.

See Annex 24 for the descriptions of the events.

CB ZRSVN then joint the documents “Reports of the initial status of the pilot areas” and “Nature conservation guidelines for pilot area management” and prepared a document for each of the pilot areas named “Basis for the management of the pilot area” (See Annex 8).

9th and 13th of March 2012, PA Zelenci: Samples of snow from the ski jump in Planica and water from Zelenci PA were take and sent to analysis before and after the World ski jumping championship event Planica 2012.

Water level measuring stations were installed by AB IzVRS at PA Mura Petišovci, Gornji kal, Zelenci and Vrhe (see Annex 25). Data are being recorded and processed by the AB IzVRS.

In order to be able to monitor the level of ground water and the effect of WETMAN activities on PAs CB ZSRVN constructed “self made piezometers”. 22 piezometers were installed on PA Pohorje bogs (Klopnovrška barja bogs and Javorski vrh bogs) and additional 9 piezometers on PA Plank. Data are being captured every two weeks. Data from the piezometers and photo documentation are in the Annex 26).

Following equipment was purchased: 3 SLR digital cameras, 4 binoculars, 6 GPS with program support, 1 telescope.

5.1.19 Action E.3 Revision of the “Conservation guidelines”

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: III/2014-IV/2014.

Planned starting and expected end dates: July 2014 - December 2014.

Action not due.

5.1.20 Action E.4 Audit

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: IV-IV/2012 and I-I/2015.

Planned starting and expected end dates: October – December 2012; January – March 2015

Action not due.

Public tender was organized and the Contract with the external subcontractor signed. (see Annex 27).

5.1.21 Action E.5 After LIFE conservation plan

Planned duration of the action in the proposal: I/2014-IV/2014.

Actual starting and expected end dates: January 2014 - December 2014

Action not due.

5.2 Envisaged progress until next report

	current report								next report									
Action	2011				2012				2013				2014				2015	
Number/name	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or action plans :																		
A1-Elaboration of CG																		
A2-Permit procedure																		
A3-Car purchase																		
B. Purchase/lease of land and/or rights :																		
B1-Land purchase																		
C. Concrete conservation actions :																		
C1-Hydrology																		
C2-Overgrowth																		
C3-Invasive species																		
C4-Habitat protection																		
C5-CG into plans																		
D. Public awareness and dissemination of results:																		
D1-N&L authority AC																		
D2-GP AC																		
D3-Promotional material																		
D4-Boards																		
D5-Project www																		
D6-TV material																		
D7-Layman's report																		
E. Overall project operation and monitoring:																		
E1-Project management																		
E2-Project evaluation																		
E3-CG revision																		
E4-Audit																		
E5-After LIFE																		
	according to proposal																	
	action completed																	
	in progress																	
	not due yet																	

Midterm report
LIFE09 NAT/SI/000374 "WETMAN"

5.3 Impact:

5.3.1 Nature & Biodiversity:

The prepared draft “Basis for management of the pilot area” (Action A.1) and their incorporation into sectoral planes (Action C.5) has an overall positive effect onto the harmonized inter-sectoral management of the PA so favorable conservation conditions of the targeted species and habitats (and other species present on all the PAs) can be improved.

All the obtained nature conservation consents, water permits and other consents (for all PAs) will assure that planned activities will be carried out and the objective of the project met.

Technical documentation for the hydrological works (Action C.1) has been produced y AB IzVRS which is the basis for all the Action C.1 Improvement of hydrological conditions of the PA Pohorje bogs, Zelenci, Gornji kal, Mura Petišovci and potentially also Planik.

All the preparatory work (AB ZGS already produces silviculture plans and marked the trees to be removed Action C.2) which gives the basis for the overgrowth removal actions.

PA Pohorje bogs:

The foot path on Pohorje bogs are reconstructed in the length of 1703 m which improved the condition of the targeted habitats Bog forest – Sphagnum spruce woods, Active raised bogs, Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds and transition mires and quaking bogs.

The visitors’ surveillance has been established and gives us good information for necessary management of visitors.

PA Zelenci:

The land for the construction of the gavel barrier was assured so that the hydrological conditions of the PA Zelenci can be improved.

PA Gornji kal:

The overgrowth was removed over the area of 1,23 ha which improved the condition for the targeted species *Emys orbicularis* at ponds Hrast and Krivače and was the ground work improved reconstruction for teh pond Kršeljivec.

The invasive fish were caught and removed from the pond Hrast (with the support form the local Fishing association) which improved the conditions for the targeted species *Emys orbicularis*.

PA Planik:

The overgrowth was removed over the area of 0,75 ha which improved the condition for the targeted species *Liparis loeselii*.

PA Mura Petišovci:

The invasive fish were caught and removed from the oxbow Muriša which improved the condition for the targeted species *Umbra krameri*, *Emys orbicularis*, *Bombina bombina*, *Leucorrhinia pectoralis*.

Several events which were organized for national and local authorities, targeted audience, general public and local community as well as new and internet articles and TV and radio broadcasts and promotional material the awareness of the public about the Natura 2000 sites, wetlands, their importance and functions and threats as well as the LIEF + mechanism was raised.

Awareness raising and communication: Current status at Mid-Term report (01.11.2012)

Target audience:	General public			Specialised audience (e.g. decision-makers)		Very specialised audience (e.g. experts, academics)		
Number of participants:	Local/Regional	National	EU/International	Local/Regional	National	Local/Regional	National	Local/Regional
0-25 participants	9	0	0	23	0	20	0	0
25-75 participants	9	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
75-100 participants	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than 100 participants	2	0	0	0	0	0		0

Type of media	No.
Project website: average number of visitors per month	1218
Press releases made by the project	3
General public article in national press	8
General public article in local press	19
Specialized press article	0
Internet article	72
TV news/reportage	5
Radio news/reportage	6
Film produced	0
Film played on TV	0
Film presented in events/festivals	0
Exhibitions attended	0
Information centre/Information kiosk	1
Project notice boards	10
Other (2 traffic signs)	0
Total budgeted cost (€)	339051

Establishment involved	No. of students
Kindergartens/Primary schools	233
Secondary schools	167
Higher education establishments	N/A
Total budgeted cost (€)	7744

5.3.2 Outside LIFE:

22nd of March, Nova Gorica: Ministry of environment and spatial planning organised an event: Signing of the letter of intent for the nomination of the Soča river day. Invited speakers were: dr. Roko Žarnić, minister, Ministry of the environment and spatial planning; dr. Darij Krajčič, director ZRSVN; Matej Arčon, in the name of all the majors along the river Soča; Barbara Avčin Tržan, general director of the Environment directorate, Ministry of environment and spatial planning, dr. Mitja Bricelj and dr. Irena Rejec Brancelj, Environment directorate, Division of waters. Representatives of projects currently running in Slovenia rivers connected to water were invited to present their projects. Nika Debeljak Šabec was invited to present the project WETMAN and LIFE + mechanism.

10th of February 2011, Maribor: Press conference at the project NATREGs (Title: Managing natural assets and protected areas as sustainable regional development opportunities, Territorial cooperation, South-eastern Europe programme) Regional workshop. Slovenian pilot area in the project NATREG is Pohorje. The aim of the regional workshop was to prepare A Vision of Pohorje in 2030, and identifying goals for further development of Pohorje area. During the 2 years of the project NATREG activities in the pilot area Pohorje the project gained a very good support from the local community and stakeholders. In parallel to the regional workshop a press conference was organized where the project NATREG and the Pohorje Vision was presented as well as the project WETMAN and LIFE + mechanism. The speakers at the press conference were: Mag. Boris Podvršnik, mayor of the Municipality Zreče; Damjan Pintar, executive director Unior d.d. Program Tourism; Dr. Darij Krajčič, director ZRSVN; Gregor Danev, ZRSVN NATREG project manager; Dr. Nika Debeljak Šabec, ZRSVN WETMAN project manager.

19th of May 2011, Ljubljana: Presentation of the LIFE + mechanism and the project WETMAN on the official visit of the representatives of various nature conservation organisation / agencies from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Slovenia (CB ZRSVN).

22nd-23rd of June 2011, Novi Sad, Vojvodina, Serbia: Project WETMAN and LIFE + were promoted on project NATREGs (Territorial cooperation, Southeast Europe programme) final conference held in Novi Sad, Serbia. The conference was attended by representatives' of all international project partners, European Commission, national authorities of Slovenia and Serbia (121 attendants). The conference was officially opened by Marta Takač, director of PE Vojvodinašume; Serbia: the opening day, was attended by important guests: Minister of Republic of Slovenia for Environment and Spatial Planning Roko Žarnić, PhD.; Serbian Minister of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning Oliver Dulić; Vice-President of the Executive Council of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina Istvan Pastor; director of The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation Darij Krajčič, PhD., and Head of the Project Development and Management Unit of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the South East Europe (JTS). Ivan Curzolo. A stand was prepared where project WETMAN and LIFE + mechanism were promoted by the WETMAN project manager (The expenses were not charged to WETMAN.)

20th to 23rd of September 2011, Žabljak, Montenegro: International conference titled "Zaštita prirode u 21.vijeku" (engl: Nature conservation in the 21th century). Local coordinator of the pilot area Gornji kal presented CB ZRSVNs effort to preserve wetlands - ponds thought different projects among them also WETMAN. The representatives of ZRSVN presented a talk titled: "Biodiversity conservation through pond revitalization" where project WETMAN and LIFE+ mechanisms were presented. (Costs not charged to WATMAN)

5th of July 2012, PA Zeleni: a field presentation of the PA Zeleni and project WETMAN to representatives of "SuperAlp! 6: The sustainable crossing of the Alps" and press was carried out by CB ZRSVN. 20 people (from different countries) attended the event.
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/749&>
<http://www.alpconv.org/en/activities/SuperAlp/SuperAlp6/default.html>

6. Financial part

6.1 Financial review by actions

Action number and name	Foreseen costs	Spent so far	Remaining	Projected final cost
A1-Elaboration of CG	121.972,00	111.539,82	10.432,18	121.972,00
A2-Permit procedure	25.680,00	24.692,53	987,47	25.680,00
A3-Car	24.500,00	23.449,71	1.050,29	24.500,00
B1-Land purchase	13.380,00	7.973,82	5.406,18	13.380,00
C1-Hydrology	575.132,00	61.226,58	513.905,42	575.132,00
C2-Overgrowth	152.910,00	30.915,03	121.994,97	152.910,00
C3-Invasive species	46.520,00	22.360,75	24.159,25	46.520,00
C4-Habitat protection	119.910,00	83.944,85	35.965,15	119.910,00
C5-CG into plans	45.080,00	13.767,81	31.312,19	45.080,00
D1-N&L authority AC	19.350,00	2.117,93	17.232,07	19.350,00
D2-GP AC	72.930,00	32.524,15	40.405,85	72.930,00
D3-Project promotion	65.486,00	39.969,03	25.516,97	65.486,00
D4-Boards	45.100,00	988,58	44.111,42	45.100,00
D5-Project www	14.000,00	6.449,56	7.550,44	14.000,00
D6-TV material	59.402,00	36.602,15	22.799,85	59.402,00
D7-Layman's report	4.300,00	0,00	4.300,00	4.300,00
E1-Project management	347.350,00	120.531,90	226.818,10	347.350,00
E2-Project evaluation	212.508,00	97.232,27	115.275,73	212.508,00
E3-CG revision	13.800,00	0,00	13.800,00	13.800,00
E4-Audit	25.200,00	0,00	25.200,00	25.200,00
E5-After LIFE	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
overheads	139.866,00	30.718,44	109.147,56	139.866,00
TOTAL	2.144.376,00	747.004,92	1.397.371,08	2.144.376,00

7. Auditor Data

Subcontracted auditor's information:

Organisation: Rödl & Partner d.o.o.

Name and address: - Marta Juvan , Litostrojska cesta 44d, 1000 Ljubljana

Auditor registration number: P-00071

8. Annexes

Deliverables - See Annex 1

Dissemination materials - see Annexes 4, 9, 18, 19

- Annex 1 - Deliverables and milestones
- Annex 2 - Consensus obtained in order to construct the gravel barrier on new location
- Annex 3 - Events which took place in order to construct the gravel barrier on the new location (action B1)
- Annex 4 - Events AC Podkoren to obtain the consensus from the Agrarian community Podkoren for the Restoration of the secondary rivers channel (Action C1.2) and Prevention of habitat destruction in Zelenci (Action C4.2) Construction of the foot path in the length of 350 m
- Annex 5 - Signed partnership and co-financing contracts
- Annex 6 - Organigrammes of the project management structure and project partnership structure
- Annex 7 - A1 – Elaboration of the “Conservation guidelines for project area management” Form for the “Conservation guidelines for project area management
- Annex 8 - A1 – Elaboration of the “Conservation guidelines for project area management”: “Basis for the management of the pilot area”
- Annex 9 - Events A1 – Elaboration of the “Conservation guidelines for project area management”: Description of the major events for the preparation go the “Basis for the management of the pilot areas”
- Annex 10 - A1-Elaboration of the “Conservation guidelines for project area management”: Establishment of Management database in Access
- Annex 11 - Action C1 – Improvement of hydrological conditions: Projects for construction for all the hydrological activities in the project, technical documentation
- Annex 12 - Events under action A2 Permit procedures
- Annex 13 - C2 - removal of the overgrowth: Photo documentation
- Annex 14 - C2 - Removal of overgrowth in the Pohorje bogs project area: Technical documentation for the overgrowth removal activities PA Pohorje bogs
- Annex 15 - Action C3 - Removal of the invasive species: Description of events and photo documentation of the removal of invasive species
- Annex 16 - Action C4 - Prevention of the habitat destruction and disturbance of species: Photo documentation and data from the PIR counter
- Annex 17 - Action D1 – National and local authority education project: Meetings that took place under this action
- Annex 18 - Action D2 – General public and local community awareness campaign: Events that took place under this action
- Annex 19 - Action D6 - Project documentary and 3 TV spot: Photo documentation of the filming
- Annex 20 - WETMAN Management plan
- Annex 21 - Action E1 – Project co-ordination and management: Meetings that took place under this action
- Annex 22 - Action E.2 - Project monitoring and evaluation –Signed contracts with external subcontractors

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- Annex 23 - Action E.2 - Project monitoring and evaluation –Reports of the subcontractors
- Annex 24 - Action E2 - Project monitoring and evaluation: Events that took place under this action
- Annex 25 - E2 - Project monitoring and evaluation: Photo documentation of the water level measuring stations installed by AB IzVRS at PA Mura Petišovci, Gornji kal, Zelenci and Vrhe
- Annex 26 - Action C4.3. - Visitors' surveillance on the Pohorje bogs project area: Piezometers installation, photo documentation, location and data graphs
- Annex 27 - Signed contract with audit organization
- Annex 28 - Communication with European Commission
- Annex 29 - Detailed list of obtained permits
- Annex 30 - Description of the new proposed activities
- Annex 31 - Consensus from the Municipality Zreče for the new proposed activities